



JPW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q76480

Yutaka ITO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/617,040

Group Art Unit: 2133

Confirmation No.: 3063

Examiner: Mujtaba M. Chaudry

Filed: July 11, 2003

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 8-31196, published February 2, 1996.
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 1-223700, published September 6, 1989.
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 1-133299, published May 25, 1989.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/617,040

Attorney Docket: Q76480

merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses here with a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated April 11, 2006, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

Date: July 7, 2006



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For: SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)


Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


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Q76480

- Claim 1
- Cited Literature 1
- Remarks

The invention shown in Figure 1 of Cited Literature 1 is found to have the same configuration as the invention according to Claim 1 of the present application.

- Claim 2
- Cited Literature 1
- Remarks

Regarding the configuration of the invention according to Claim 2 of the present application, see the language of paragraph (0016) of Cited Literature 1.

- Claim 3
- Cited Literature 1 and 2
- Remarks

Regarding the configuration of the invention according to Claim 3 of the present application, see the language of Cited Literature 2, page 8, right bottom column, lines 9 through 19, etc.

- Claim 4
- Cited Literature 1 and 2
- Remarks

A configuration such as that of the invention according to Claim 4 of the present application is found to be no more than a matter which could be designed as appropriate by a person skilled in the art.

- Claim 5
- Cited Literature 1 and 2
- Remarks

Referring to the language of paragraph (0020), etc. of Cited Literature 1, a configuration such as that of the invention according to Claim 5 of the present application is found to be no more than a matter which could be designed as appropriate by a person skilled in the art.

- Claim 6
- Cited Literature 1 through 3
- Remarks

Regarding the configuration of the invention according to Claim 6 of the present application, see Figure 1, etc. of Cited Literature 3.

- Claim 7
- Cited Literature 1 through 3
- Remarks

Regarding the configuration of the invention according to Claim 7 of the present application, see Figure 1, etc. of Cited Literature 2.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H08-031196
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H01-223700
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H01-133299

Under the Paperwork reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/617,040
				Filing Date	07-11-03
				First Named Inventor	Yutaka ITO
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
				Attorney Docket Number	Q76480
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include of this form with next communication to applicant.

1. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) 2. See Kinds codes of USPTO patent Docuwww.uspto.gov MPEP 901.04. 3. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3.) 4. For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office,

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SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450